

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS, COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS
IN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR

Please amend the following claims as indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A metal complex comprising a functional group which ~~is to form~~ has a property of forming a covalent bond with an amino group of an N-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide or with a carboxyl group of a C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide, wherein the covalent bond to be formed between the amino group of the N-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide or the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide and the functional group is not cleaved in a stage of ionization in mass spectrometry.

2. (Currently Amended) The metal complex according to claim 1, further comprising a ligand with said functional group ~~which is to form~~ having the property of forming the covalent bond with the amino group of the N-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide or with the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide.

3. (Original) The metal complex according to claim 1, wherein a metal element thereof is selected from transition metals and typical metals.

4. (Original) The metal complex according to claim 1, wherein a coordination number thereof is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

5. (Original) The metal complex according to claim 1, wherein a ligand thereof is a monodentate ligand or a polydentate ligand.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) The metal complex according to claim 1, wherein the functional group ~~which is to form~~ having the property of forming the covalent bond with the

amino group of the N-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide is a functional group which ~~is to form~~ has a property of forming the covalent bond through nucleophilic reaction with the amino group.

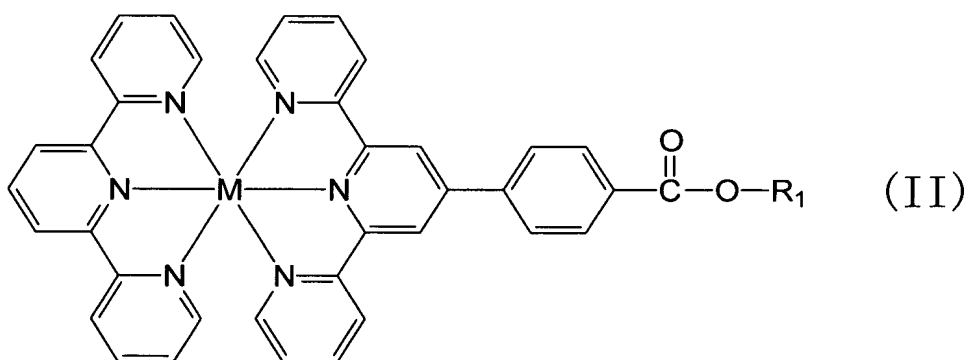
8. (Currently Amended) The metal complex according to claim 1, wherein the functional group ~~which is to form~~ having the property of forming the covalent bond with the amino group of the N-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide is $-\text{CO}-\text{OR}_1$, wherein R_1 represents H or an active ester-forming group.

9. (Original) The metal complex according to claim 1, which is represented by the following general formula (I):

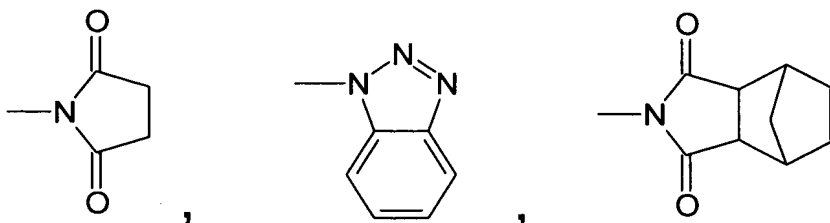


wherein M represents a transition metal; L_1 represents a ligand having a substituent: $-\text{CO}-\text{OR}_1$ (where R_1 represents H or an active ester-forming group) or $-\text{R}_2-\text{CO}-\text{OR}_1$ (where R_2 represents an arylene group or an alkylene group, R_1 represents H or an active ester-forming group); L_2 represents a ligand; m is a number of L_2 , indicating 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

10. (Original) The metal complex according to claim 1, which is represented by the following general formula (II):



wherein M represents a transition metal; and R_1 represents H or an active ester-forming group represented by any of the following formula:



11. (Currently Amended) The metal complex according to claim 1, wherein the functional group ~~which is to form~~ having the property of forming the covalent bond with the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide is a functional group ~~which is to form~~ has a property of forming the covalent bond through nucleophilic reaction with the carboxyl group.

12. (Currently Amended) The metal complex according to claim 1, wherein the functional group ~~which is to form~~ having the property of forming the covalent bond with the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide is -NH_2 or -NHNH_2 .

13. (Original) The metal complex as claimed in claim 1, which is represented by the following general formula (III):



wherein M represents a transition metal; L_3 represents a ligand having a substituent: -NH_2 , -NHNH_2 , $\text{-R}_2\text{-NH}_2$ or $\text{-R}_2\text{-NHNH}_2$ (where R_2 represents an arylene group or an alkylene group); L_2 represents a ligand; m is a number of L_2 , indicating 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

14. (Original) A reagent for determining amino acid sequence of protein or peptide, which comprises the metal complex according to claim 1.

15. (Original) A method for determining amino acid sequence of protein or peptide, which comprises using the metal complex according to claim 1.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for determining amino acid sequence of protein or peptide, which comprises

reacting the metal complex according to claim 1 with a protein or peptide (A) of which the amino acid sequence is to be determined, to form a ~~metal complex~~ derivative (B) of said metal complex where the covalent bond of the functional group of the metal complex with the amino group of the N-terminal amino acid residue of the protein or peptide (A) or with the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide is formed, and analyzing the ~~metal complex~~ derivative (B) through mass spectrometry.

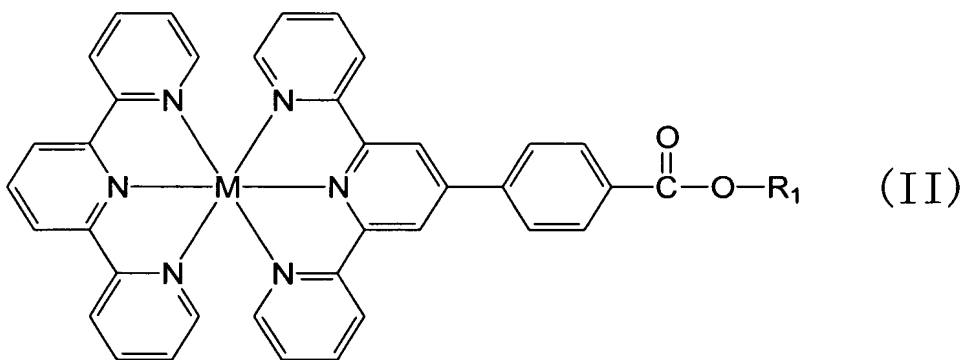
17. (Currently Amended) A metal complex comprising a functional group which ~~is to form~~ has a property of forming a covalent bond with an amino group of an N-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide,

wherein the metal complex is represented by the following general formula (I):

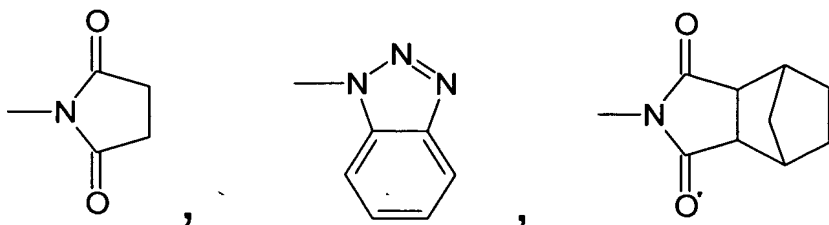


wherein M represents a transition metal; L_1 represents a ligand having a substituent: -CO-OR₁ (where R₁ represents H or an active ester-forming group) or -R₂-CO-OR₁ (where R₂ represents an arylene group, R₁ represents H or an active ester-forming group); L_2 represents a ligand; m is a number of L_2 , indicating 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

18. (Previously Presented) The metal complex according to claim 17, which is represented by the following general formula (II):



wherein M represents a transition metal; and R₁ represents H or an active ester-forming group represented by any of the following formula:



19. (Currently Amended) A metal complex comprising a functional group which ~~is to form~~ has a property of forming a covalent bond with a carboxyl group of a C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide, wherein the functional group ~~which is to form the covalent bond with the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide is -~~ NHNH₂.

20. (Previously Presented) The metal complex according to claim 19, which is represented by the following general formula (III):



wherein M represents a transition metal; L₃ represents a ligand having a substituent: -NHNH₂ or -R₂-NHNH₂ (where R₂ represents an arylene group or an alkylene group); L₂ represents a ligand; m is a number of L₂, indicating 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for determining amino acid sequence of protein or peptide, which comprises

reacting a metal complex which comprises a functional group which ~~is to form~~ has a property of forming a covalent bond with an amino group of an N-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide or with a carboxyl group of a C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide, with a protein or peptide (A) of which the amino acid sequence is to be determined, to form a ~~metal complex~~ derivative (B) of said metal complex where the covalent bond of the functional group of the metal complex with the amino group of the N-terminal amino acid residue of the protein or peptide (A) or with the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide is formed, and

analyzing the ~~metal complex~~ derivative (B) of said metal complex through mass spectrometry.